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7 September 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Science and Technology
SUBJECT: IDEALIST/TACKLE Mission C297C

1. Mission aircraft departed [] at 07/0130Z September 1967, as scheduled. The mission was aborted, however, at 0215Z [] The pilot attempted four re-cycles of the system, but a malfunction was still indicated.

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2. The mission aircraft was re-routed to [] [], prior to beginning a descent, to give the appearance of a normal training mission. Landing was completed at 0400Z for a mission duration of 2+30 hours.

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3. Post-flight inspection [] revealed that the low voltage power supply rectifier failed. System operation was normal after the LVPS was replaced.

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4. Mission C297C has been re-scheduled for departure from [] at 08/0130Z and to fly the same route as planned for 7 September.

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8 September 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Science and Technology

SUBJECT: IDEALIST/TACKLE Mission C297C

1. Mission C297C was lost over the China mainland at 0331Z on 8 September at approximately 3038N 12025E.

2. The aircraft departed [] at 0130Z. The mission route was planned to obtain photography of ChiCom airfield targets []. The mission route [].

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3. The aircraft penetrated ChiCom territory approximately twenty-five miles north of Shanghai at approximately 0255Z. After passing Shanghai the aircraft turned to a southeasterly heading, remaining at least twenty five miles to the west of the known SAM sites at Shanghai. The next heading was to the northwest and the planned route was over the airfield at Chia-Hsing. [] indicated that the aircraft was approximately five miles west of planned track on this leg.

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4. The first indication of trouble was a [] activity at 032957Z. This activity continued for 41 seconds. All [] reporting ceased completely at 033038Z. The mission aircraft was at approximately 3038N 12025E at that time.

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6. The [] activity, coupled with the abrupt termination of [] indicates that the loss resulted from a surface-to-air missile attack. 25X1

7. Prior to the mission NPIC had completed a SAM search of the area within a fifty mile radius of Hang Chou (3015N 12010E) and Chia Hsing (3044N 12042E), in addition to the area within thirty miles of the planned track. Search of the area, where the aircraft is presumed to have been lost, utilized satellite photography [] and which had less than ten percent cloud cover. No sites were reported within thirty miles of the planned route except the two sites at Shanghai. NPIC has been provided the coordinates of the last known position of the aircraft and requested to conduct another search of that area. 25X1

8. The last TACKLE mission flown within twenty five miles of the airfields at Hang Chou and Chia Hsing was completed on 26 August 1965. 25X1

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